

**THE WASHINGTON VOLUNTEER**  
**PUGET SOUND CIVIL WAR ROUND TABLE**  
**HTTP://WWW.PSCWRT.ORG/**  
**JANUARY 2015**

**NEXT MEETING: Thursday, January 8, 2015**

**China Harbor**, 2040 Westlake Avenue North, Seattle, Washington

**Time:** Social hour at **6 p.m.**; Dinner served at **7 p.m.**; Program at **8 p.m.**

**MENU CHOICES: Mongolian Beef, Chicken or Salmon**

**Dinner includes: salad, vegetable delight, General Tso's chicken, fried rice and fresh fruit.**

**Cost is \$21 for adults and \$10 for minors and college students, payable at the door, but reservations and meal choices are required. See below.**

To make reservations and meal choices, use one of these options (most preferred listed first):

Click on <http://www.pscwrt.org/about/dinner-reservations.php>

Email **Rod Cameron** at: [rodcam@comcast.net](mailto:rodcam@comcast.net)

Or lastly, call **Rod Cameron** at **206-524-4434**

**Deadline for reservations is 12 NOON on Tuesday, January 6, 2015.**

**NOTE:** Remember to turn off cell phones before the meeting so there are no distractions for the speaker. Thank you!



**FRANK WILLIAMS WILL DISCUSS  
LINCOLN, MCCLELLAN, AND  
GRANT: WAR AND POLITICS,**

**1864-65.** These were difficult and complex years for these three main characters of the Civil War. Fear of defeat for re-election caused Lincoln to rethink emancipation and even consider restoring a command to McClellan.

Newly appointed General-in-Chief Ulysses S. Grant was wary of the President and the War Department as he did not want to be “McClellanized,” with military policy dictated by politics. This is that story. Retired Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Rhode Island, Frank Williams is a well-known Lincoln expert, scholar and collector, the founding chair of the Lincoln Forum, a board member of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Foundation, the author of many articles, and the author or editor of more than a dozen books, including *Lincoln as Hero*; *Judging Lincoln*; *The Emancipation Proclamation: Three Views*; and *Lincoln Lessons: Reflections on America's Greatest Leader*.

**IMPORTANT DISPATCHES**

**TOUR OF THE GEORGE PICKETT HOUSE & THE TERRITORIAL  
COURTHOUSE IN BELLINGHAM, WA: JANUARY 20, 2015**

Save the date of Tuesday, January 20, 2015. At 12 noon, members of the Puget Sound Civil War Roundtable have been invited into the Pickett House in Bellingham for lunch, followed by a tour

of the historic residence. After that, there will be a tour of the nearby Territorial Courthouse. BOTH TOURS ARE FREE OF CHARGE, but the lunch will be \$15 per person.

George Pickett, who later became famous at Gettysburg, lived in the house now at 910 Bancroft Street shortly before the start of the Civil War. Then there will be a tour of the Territorial Courthouse which is the oldest brick building in Washington State having been built in 1858. We will be given the tour by Wes Ganaway, President of the Whatcom County Historical Society. The courthouse is only a block away from the Pickett House and that tour will take only about 45 minutes.

LUNCH: Prior to the Pickett House tour, we will be having lunch at the Pickett House which shall consist of soup and sandwiches or soup and salad, plus coffee and dessert- \$15 per person.

There are two ways to register for this tour. Sign up in person at the next PSCWRT meeting on Thursday, January 8, 2015 or email Rick Solomon at [ricksolo@ricksolo.com](mailto:ricksolo@ricksolo.com) before then. Either way, DEADLINE FOR REGISTRATION IS JANUARY 8, 2015.

TRANSPORTATION: Members (and guests) registering for the tour must provide their own transportation OR contact someone who is going and is willing to drive a carpool. When you sign up, be sure to say if you need a ride or are willing to provide a ride for others (including how many passengers you can take).

DIRECTIONS: Directions to the Pickett House (910 Bancroft Street, Bellingham, WA) will be given out at the meeting to those who sign up or emailed to those who register with Rick via email.

*This is the third of a series of five stories about Civil War veterans buried in Saar Pioneer Cemetery in Kent, King County, Washington.*

**Nathaniel P. Hoag, 118th Regiment, New York Volunteer Infantry, aka the  
“Adirondack Regiment”  
By Sylva Coppock**

Nathaniel P. Hoag was born 23 January 1815 in Starksboro, Addison County, Vermont. He was the first child of Elijah Hoag, born 4 November 1789, and Elijah's first wife, Lydia Varney, born in 1790.

According to the International Genealogical Index, Elijah and Lydia were both born in Peru, Clinton County, New York and married 5 February 1814 in their home town. The Elijah Hoag family, as well as the Varney family, were well-documented in many of the early census records for Vermont, having lived in Lincoln and Starksboro, in Addison County beginning as early as 1820. Elijah's first wife Lydia bore him seven children: Nathaniel P., born 23 January 1815, the subject of this history; Mary V., born 8 August 1816; Richard, born 2 June 1817; Martha, born 10 December 1818; Abigail B., born 17 June 1820; Justin, born 26 January 1822; and Hannah, born 25 August 1823. All of these children were born while the family still lived in Starksboro, Vermont. Lydia Hoag presumably died between 1823, when Hannah was born, and 1830 when Elijah married his second wife, Anna Underhill. Anna bore Elijah three children: Jacob Underhill

Hoag, born 28 November 1832; Ella Jane, born 1835; and Lydia (or Lithia), born 1836. These last three children were born in New York. Elijah Hoag died 23 April 1880 in Peru, New York. His wife Anna, who was born in 1795, preceded him in death, having died in 1877.

Elijah's first child, Nathaniel P. Hoag appeared on the 1860 New York State Census living in Elizabethtown, Essex County, New York. He was still a single man when he enlisted in the U.S. Federal Army to fight in the Civil War. His enlistment records indicated that he was 41 years old at the time he joined the 118th Regiment of New York Volunteer Infantry, but a bit of mathematics would show that he was actually closer to 48 years old if he was indeed born in 1815.

Hoag enlisted on 16 July 1862 at Elizabethtown, New York, to serve in Company F of the 118 New York, often referred to as the "Adirondack Regiment." He was mustered in at Plattsburg, New York on 29 August 1862 and was promoted to full sergeant. At the time of his enlistment, Nathaniel listed his occupation as wheelwright. He was described as having brown hair, blue eyes, dark complexion and was five-foot, 10-1/2 inches tall. Company F was made up of men from Essex, Elizabethtown, Mariah, and Westport, all in New York.

### **A History of the 118th New York Volunteer Infantry "Adirondack Regiment"**

Organized in Plattsburg, New York and mustered into the Federal forces on 27 August 1862, the 118th Regiment left New York, destined for Washington D.C. on 3 September 1862. They were attached to a provisional brigade of Abercrombie's Division, assigned to the defense of the Capitol. During the course of the war the regiment was reassigned to several different organizational divisions and brigades within the Seventh Army Corps and were involved in many operations throughout what was known as the Peninsular Campaign in Virginia.

In April of 1863 they were involved in the Siege of Suffolk, Virginia, then moved to Portsmouth in May and served in operations along the Norfolk and Petersburg Railroad, at Antioch Church, and Baker's Crossroads. That summer and fall they were assigned to actions at Gloucester Court House, Yorktown, Portsmouth, and vicinity.

As part of the Second Brigade, First Division, Eighteenth Corps, in General Butler's Army of the James, the regiment took part in the campaign against Richmond. By spring of 1864 they were constantly on the move and had encounters at Richmond, Deep Creek, Portsmouth, Smithfield, and Cherry Grove. They lost 199 of their comrades in the Battle of Drewry's Bluff, and more at Bermuda Hundred, and White House Landing during May. They fought valiantly at The Battle of Cold Harbor, a lengthy siege in June of 1864. That summer and fall the men of 118th went up against the Confederates at Petersburg, Richmond, New Market Heights, and fought at the Battle of Fair Oaks.

The regiment was reassigned and attached to the Second Brigade, Third Division, Twenty-Fourth Corps, and were in the trenches before Richmond until March of 1865. They were engaged without loss at the fall of Petersburg, on 2 April 1865. They then pursued General Robert E. Lee's Army of Virginia to Richmond, and were at Appomattox Court House when Lee surrendered to General U.S. Grant on 8 April 1865. The regiment continued to serve on provost duty at Richmond and Manchester until the men of the 118th New York were mustered out on 13 June 1865.

While serving his country during the Civil War, Nathaniel P. Hoag suffered injury, illness, and disabilities that would be with him for the remainder of his life. According to statements made in his pension files, in June of 1863, while on duty on Pamunkey Island in the York River

near White House Landing, Nathaniel contracted an inflammation of his eyes, "brought on by laying out in camp during stormy weather, among poisonous weeds or shrubs ..." He was excused from duty until 21 September 1863. He later reported in papers filed in support of his pension application that this infection led to the loss of sight in his left eye. Several of his fellow soldiers were called upon to submit statements to support his claim. Harvey Bronson reported, "... near the last days of June 1864, the 118th regiment was camped on Pamunkey Island, in the State of Virginia, in the York River, and I camped with said Nathaniel P. Hoag. Hoag was taken blind and I had to lead him whenever we moved and we parted on the 4th day of July 1864. The regiment was on a campaign to Hanover Junction ..." [It would appear the Bronson was mistaken in his timing. According to Hoag, and Fayette Nichols, this incident occurred in 1863, rather than 1864.]

In a subsequent statement filed 23 January 1891, another of Hoag's comrades, Fayette C. Nichols, said that Hoag was suffering from being blind in his left eye. "I lead said Hoag across from Pamunkey Island to main land on the Rail Road Bridge on the 4 day of July 1863 in consequence of ... Hoag being blind." Hoag continued in his statements and reported that in July of 1864, while on duty with his regiment and crossing a ditch in front of Bermuda Hundred in Virginia, he fell and injured his abdomen, which produced a hernia or breach that incapacitated him for duty. He commented that his regiment sustained heavy losses from killed and wounded and the regimental surgeon's duties were arduous every place along the line, so it was difficult to call the attention of surgeons to any but extreme cases, thus he had not reported his injuries, believing it was not very serious although he had pain in his lower abdomen. "I was sent to Hospital soon after with felon or painful swelling on my left hand and remained in hospital until the fore part of September before I was discharged by the surgeon ..." He was examined and treated by William R. Mansfield, M.D., and remained in the hospital until 18 September 1864. Hoag also stated that he went onboard a steamer bound for Hampton Hospital where he remained in Ward No. 1 until September. Edward O. Welch, another of Hoag's comrades, testified to his service with Hoag. He indicated that they were in front of Petersburg, Virginia during the battle of 15 June 1864, and remained there during much of the summer, fall, and winter. Sometime during the last part of July 1864, the regiment was marching into the breast works, a short distance to the right of the Richmond and City Point Railroad at night to avoid the fire of the rebel sharpshooters. "The men tumbled and blundered about very much in consequence of the roughness of the way and darkness of the night and many of them received severe falls and among those was said Hoag who did complain then of being badly hurt and did so complain of pain in his abdomen for several days, until said Hoag was sent to Hospital ..." After his release from the hospital on 18 April 1864, Hoag continued with the regiment until 6 October 1864. He was next sent to the hospital at Point of Rocks on the Appomattox, where he remained until 5 January 1865, and was then sent to Hampton Hospital at Fort Monroe, Virginia. From there he was sent to Ira Harris Hospital in Albany, New York where he was treated for hernias and received his final discharge from the army in June.

Nathaniel did not return to Elizabethtown immediately following his discharge, but went to Chesterfield, in Essex County where he lived with his brother Richard Hoag for a period of about one year. He told his brother that he was, "badly ruptured and was ruptured on each side ... while serving in the U.S. Army." Soon after his discharge in June of 1865, Nathaniel Hoag consulted Dr. Burlock of Albany, New York about his disabilities. In 1869 he met with Dr. Weston of Essex County, New York regarding treatment; and then in 1872 consulted with a Dr. Comings about the loss of sight in his left eye. He filed his first application for Invalid Pension on 26 January 1871 and was awarded \$4 per month for his disability. Shortly after he filed for his pension, he moved from New York to Minnesota. He was listed on the Minnesota Territorial State Census, taken on 1 May 1875, as age 56, born in Vermont. He was living in Carson, Cottonwood County, Minnesota.

Nathaniel P. Hoag married Jane Betsy (Carrington) Baker on 10 April 1877 in Medo, Blue Earth County, Minnesota. Jane was born on 7 September 1829 in Bristol, Ontario County, New

York. She was a widow at the time she married Nathaniel, having previously been married to a man named William H. Baker (1817-1874), with whom she had five children. Nathaniel's Pension File from the National Archives and Records Administration, was a gold mine of information about his service during the Civil War. Between 1871 and the end of his life he fought resolutely to get a fair and just financial settlement from the federal government. He filed dozens of personal statements over the years, called upon dozens of his comrades to provide affidavits in support of his claims, consulted frequently with medical professionals about his disabilities, and hired several law firms to prosecute his case with the Pension Bureau. The complete pension file contained nearly one hundred different documents. Captain Robert W. Livingston of Elizabethtown, Essex County, New York, wrote that he had known Nathaniel P. Hoag since 1848 when Hoag moved to New York. He stated that, "He was perfectly sound and able-bodied in all particulars ... was a very faithful and earnest soldier and a worthy man." Livingston, who had been instrumental in organizing the Adirondack Regiment, was wounded at the Battle of Drewry's Bluff on 16 May 1864, but survived his wounds and continued to be acquainted with Nathaniel after the Civil War and wrote several statements in support of Hoag's pension claims. Nathaniel's initial pension application based his claim on the fact that he suffered from a right inguinal hernia, sustained during his service near Bermuda Hundred in Virginia. He subsequently amended this claim, requesting an increase in his pension, indicating that he also had a hernia in his left side acquired in the same action. Still later, he reported that he had also lost sight in his left eye, resulting from the conjunctivitis he'd suffered in July of 1863.

In 3 December 1879 Nathaniel filed for a homestead at the New Ulm Land Office in Minnesota. The Homestead Entry Document was No. 2913 (Misc. Doc. No: 8086) on land described as Section 12, Twp. 106-N, Range 36-W, Meridian 5 P.M., 1-SE. On 30 December 1879 Nathaniel Hoag was awarded 160 acres of land, under the Homestead Act of 20 May 1862, at the Land Office in New Ulm, Accession No. MN1350\_347, in Section 12, Twp. 106-N, Range 35-W, Meridian 5 PM in the County of Cottonwood, Minnesota. The 1880 census for Carson, shows that Nathaniel P. Hoag, age 61, a farmer born in Vermont, was living with his wife Jane B. Hoag, age 51, born in New York, and Minnie A. Baker, a step-daughter, age 15, born in Minnesota. Living with Nathaniel and Jane was his mother-in-law Jerusha W. Hatch, age 76, born in New York. The Minnesota Territorial State Census taken 1 May 1885, in Carson, Cottonwood County, Minnesota, listed N. P. Hoag, age 65, born in Vermont; Jane B. Hoag, age 53, born in New York, and Charles Johns, age 14, born in New York.

On 2 March 1892 Hoag applied for another increase in his pension, due to double inguinal hernia, loss of sight in left eye, and deafness in his left ear. By 3 August 1894 Hoag was living in Kent, King County, Washington, when he again filed for another increase in his pension. He was now receiving his pension at a rate of \$17 per month, but indicates in this statement that he believes his pension was “unjustly low and disproportionate to his degree of disability.” Hoag had moved from Vermont to New York about 1848, then to Minnesota in the early 1870s. He and Jane then moved to King County, Washington sometime between 1885 and 1894. Nathaniel, age 76, and living in Kent, filed a Claimant Affidavit, on 10 March 1896 in which he summarized his disabilities: a hernia on both left and right side of his abdomen, “contracted on about 1 July 1864 in consequence of a fall in marching into the trenches in the night time.” He also referred to early affidavits by Fayette C. Nichols with regard to deafness in his left ear. While other statements claimed blindness in his left eye, he did not mention it in this document. Charles Johns filed an Affidavit on 10 April 1896 in support of Hoag’s pension claims. He offered his statement of “medical evidence” saying that he knew of Hoag’s affliction with rupture or hernia, and said he always wore a truss or supporter in consequence of his affliction. He also stated that Hoag has been blind in the left eye during all the time he has known him, and that he complained of deafness in his left ear.

For all his attempts to gain an equitable pension between 1871 and 1897, Nathaniel was able to succeed in having his income raised from the initial \$4 allotment to a total of \$17, last paid on 4 October 1897. He was dropped from the pension rolls 24 November 1897 because of his death. Nathaniel and Jane Hoag had no children together. His demise was listed on the Register of Deaths in King County, State of Washington. This register verified his birth date as 1815, and birth place as Vermont; the son of Elijah Hoag, born in New York, and Lydia Varney, born in New Hampshire. His occupation at the time of his death was listed as farmer, residing in Kent, Washington. He was 82 years old at the time of his death on 24 November 1897, and he died of pneumonia. He was a married man, and his wife Jane B. Hoag was listed as the person providing the information for the Register. The White River Journal dated Saturday, 4 December 1897 carried Nathaniel Hoag’s obituary on the front page, column three:

#### **OBITUARY**

Nathan [sic] P. Hoag, who died at his home two miles east of Kent, on Wednesday morning, Nov. 24, 1897, of pneumonia, was born in South Starksboro Vermont, on the 22nd day of January, 1815, having at the time of his death arrived at the advanced age of 82 years, 10 months and 28 days. He was a veteran of the Civil war, having enlisted in a N. Y. regiment, at the beginning of the strife, and served until the close of the war, when he was mustered out of the service and again returned to his former pursuits. He was married to Mrs. Jane B. Baker at Tivoli, Blue Earth county Minnesota, in which state they resided until coming to Washington some six years ago. Upon their arrival at Kent they located on a farm about two miles east of town, where he resided until his death.

Mr. Hoag enlisted in the Christian service some twenty years ago, uniting with the Presbyterian church and was a faithful member up to the time of his death. He was a man firm in the faith, steadfast in his principles, a good citizen, a strong prohibitionist—he never hesitated when opportunity afforded to speak a word in behalf of his cherished principles. He will be greatly missed by his large circle of friends. Yet our loss is his gain; his life among us was an example worthy of imitation.

Be it said of him: he has finished his course, he has fought the good fight, he kept the faith; now he has gone from among us to claim that rich inheritance which awaits all those who fall asleep in Christ Jesus.

F.E.M.

The White River Journal published on Saturday, 25 December 1897, page four, column two, carried the following notice: "Jane B. Hoag filed a Declaration for Widow's Pension under Certificate No. 669 460, and filed an Application for Accrued Pension, both on 16 January 1897, through M.B. Madison, Executor of Hoag's estate. The claims were stamped "ABANDONED" as of 21 February 1898, after Jane's death on 14 February 1898."

**SOURCES:** The book "A History of Saar Pioneer Cemetery and Its Inhabitants," Researched and Compiled by Members of the South King County Genealogical Society, and online resources and documents referenced in the text.

**NOTE:** Much of the history on the five Civil War veterans buried in this cemetery was researched and written by Sylva Jean Coppock. Permission was received from the owners of the copyright to reproduce sections of the book to share with the Puget Sound Civil War Roundtable, but should not be used for any other purpose.

## **PRESIDENT'S CORNER**

### **"Report Card on John Bell Hood"**

**By Rick Solomon, President, PSCWRT**

On January 23, 1865 John Bell Hood was replaced as commander of the Army of Tennessee. I remember a number of years ago at one of our meetings someone gave the opinion that Hood had reached his level of incompetence as a Corps and Army commander. Let's take a look at Hood's military record as a Brigade, Division, Corps and Army commander and grade him on each.

**BRIGADE COMMANDER:** In March of 1862 Hood was appointed commander of the Texas Brigade after a successful stint as Colonel of the 4<sup>th</sup> Texas, one of the regiments of that famous brigade. During his period of brigade command Hood had two very successful parts in battles. On May 7, 1862 at Eltham's Landing on the Peninsula Hood's brigade attacked the Federals causing about 300 casualties while suffering only 40 casualties. Since Hood had about 2,000 men under his command his Texas Brigade's casualty rate was about 2%. His superior, Chase Whiting, in his report noted the "conspicuous gallantry of Hood."

On June 27, 1862 at Gaines Mill (the only true Confederate tactical victory during the Seven Days) Hood's Texas Brigade was the unit that pierced the center of the Federal line leading to the collapse of the entire Union position. Of the approximate 2,000 men taken into that battle the Texas Brigade lost 572 men, a casualty rate of about 29%. In his book *The Seven Days* Clifford Dowdy stated, "Hood showed the instincts of the born fighter and a fighter's instinctive reactions. Ultimately it was John Hood's tactical initiative that sustained the assault of the two brigades." In *Lee's Lieutenants* Douglas Southall Freeman opined that Hood's attack at Gaines Mill was the single most impressive action by any Confederate general in the entire Seven Days. **GRADE: A.**

### **DIVISION COMMANDER:**

On July 26, 1862 Chase Whiting got a medical furlough and Hood took over as commander of the two brigade division in Longstreet's command. On August 30, 1862 at Second Bull Run Longstreet selected Hood's Division to spearhead the flank attack on John

Pope's right. Freeman described Hood's action that day as "magnificent." Out of about 3,000 men in his division Hood suffered about 900 losses, a casualty rate of about 30%.

Late in the day at South Mountain on September 14, 1862 Hood's Division was ordered to the right at Fox's Gap and repelled a Union attack that was about to break D.H. Hill's line. Three days later at Antietam Hood's Division counterattacked Hooker's Corps at the Cornfield only to be attacked by Mansfield's Corps. Hood reported to Stonewall Jackson, the Confederate commander on the left "Unless I get help I will be forced back, but I am going on while I can." Later that night at headquarters Lee asked Hood where his division was he replied, "They are lying on the field where you sent them. My division has been almost wiped out." Hood's Division lost about half of its 2,000 men during the Antietam Campaign.

On September 27, 1862, Stonewall Jackson sent a letter to Samuel Cooper, adjutant and inspector general of the Confederate army. "I respectfully recommend that Brig. Genl. J.B. Hood be promoted to the rank of a Major General. After praising Hood's earlier service, Jackson added that at Antietam Hood had fought with "such ability and zeal as to command my admiration. I regard him as one of the most promising officers of the army." Lee also recommended Hood for promotion. In the reorganization of the Army of Northern Virginia Hood was promoted to Major General and had two additional brigades (Georgians under Robert Toombs and George T. Anderson) put in his division.

At the Battle of Fredericksburg Hood's Division was in the center of the Confederate line and was not heavily engaged. The division lost 343 men, about 5% of their strength. Pickett's and Hood's Divisions were in Suffolk Virginia under the command of Longstreet and missed the Battle of Chancellorsville. Among the Chancellorsville casualties was Stonewall Jackson. Lee decided to divide the Army of Northern Virginia into three Corps to be led by Longstreet, Ewell and A.P. Hill. The only other generals seriously considered for Corps command were Jeb Stuart, Richard H. Anderson and Hood. Lee evaluated Hood as a "capital officer" who was improving...and will make a good corps commander if necessary."

At Gettysburg Hood was ordered by Lee through Longstreet to attack the Union left flank by moving up the Emmitsburg Road. Hood's scouts reported that the Round Tops were unoccupied and that, if the Confederates moved around them, the left of the Union army would be turned. Three times Hood asked Longstreet to do this and three times Longstreet, knowing that Lee wanted the attack up the Emmitsburg Road, overruled Hood. I think Hood was right. Shortly after Hood's Division became engaged, a shell exploded above Hood, and fragments went through his left hand, forearm, elbow, and biceps. Hood had to give up command of his division for the remainder of Gettysburg. All in all Hood was an excellent division commander. However Hood, after Antietam through Gettysburg did not lead a four brigade Division that was heavily engaged throughout a battle. **GRADE: A.**

### **CORPS COMMANDER:**

Hood was a de facto corps commander at Chickamauga, September 19-20, 1863. Hood was very lucky in that the attack that his men made on September 20 was at a point in the Union line that had recently been vacated by Wood's Division. Crittenden's and McCook's Union Corps retreated to Chattanooga in disarray. However, in this attack Hood was wounded in his



right thigh so badly that his leg had to be amputated. After Chickamauga Bragg and Jefferson Davis did a housecleaning of the Army of Tennessee in which Leonidas Polk, among others, was removed from command of his corps. A replacement had to be found. Hood was endorsed for promotion to Corps commander and Lieutenant General by Lee, Bragg and Longstreet. While Alexander P. Stewart and Patrick Cleburne may have been more qualified, Davis decided on Hood.

In the Atlanta Campaign up to the point of his promotion to Commander of the Army of Tennessee on July 17, 1864, Hood did nothing that was very bad or very good. What he did do, apparently under orders from Jefferson Davis, was to write a series of letters to Davis, James Seddon (Secretary of War) and Braxton Bragg (Military Advisor to Davis) about how Joseph Johnston was doing in his command of the Army of Tennessee. In essence he was a spy for the Davis administration and was, arguably, insubordinate to Johnston by not going through regular chain of command in his communications. Hood was not always truthful in these communications and he claimed that his main rival to replace Johnston in command of the Army of Tennessee, William Hardee, was in agreement with Johnston most of the time about retreating. This also was not true. Hood was merely adequate as a corps commander. **GRADE: C.**

#### **ARMY COMMANDER:**

Davis, on July 12, 1864, asked Robert E. Lee for advice, stating by telegraph "Johnston has failed, and there are strong indications that he will abandon Atlanta....It seems necessary to relieve him at once. Who should succeed him? What think you of Hood for the position?" Lee replied by telegram the same day: "It is a bad time to release the commander of an army situated as that of Tennessee. We may lose Atlanta and the army too. Hood is a bold fighter. I am doubtful as to other qualities necessary."

That night Lee wrote a long letter to Davis. It read in part "It is a grievous thing to change commander of an army situated as is that of the Tennessee. Still if necessary it ought to be done. I know nothing of the necessity... Hood is a bold fighter, very industrious on the battlefield, careless off, and I have had no opportunity judging his action, when the whole responsibility rested upon him. I have a high opinion of his gallantry, earnestness and zeal. Genl Hardee has more experience in managing an army."

On July 17 Hood was ordered to take command of the Army of Tennessee. As Commander of the Army of Tennessee Hood was an unmitigated disaster. His three attacks around Atlanta in July 1864 resulted in more casualties to the Confederates than the Federals. This was horrible arithmetic when Sherman's men outnumbered Hood's by almost two to one. Lovejoy Station and Jonesboro had similar results. Finally, Hood's Invasion of Tennessee started off well. But the twin defeats at the Battles of Franklin (Nov. 30, 1864) and Nashville (Dec. 15, 1864) destroyed the Army of Tennessee as a viable fighting force. As an Army commander he was unable or unwilling to plan thoroughly his operations. He neglected such essential details as reconnaissance, logistics, and staff work. He did not closely supervise his subordinates. **GRADE: F.**

In conclusion, Hood was excellent as a Brigade and Division commander. He was average as a Corps commander. Hood was way over his head as an Army commander.

I look forward to seeing and talking with you at our January 8, 2015 meeting.

Rick Solomon, President

## **CIVIL WAR TRIVIA QUIZ- 150 YEARS AGO**

*...1865. January. It was a new year, but for the South it was the same old story. The noose continued to tighten...*

(1) On Jan. 7, 1865 the Federal War Department issued an order relieving Gen. Benjamin F. Butler as commander of the Army of the James and of the Department of Virginia and North Carolina. Who replaced Butler?

(2) When John Bell Hood resigned as commander of the army of Tennessee on Jan. 23, 1865 who took his place?

(3) On Jan. 15, 1865 Fort Fisher surrendered to Federal forces commanded by Admiral David Dixon Porter from the sea and Gen. Alfred Terry from the land. Who was the confederate commander of Fort Fisher? Please note that he was not taken prisoner in the surrender.

Bonus Question: On Jan 7, 1865 the Danish ironclad *Sphinx* set sail from Copenhagen to Quiberon Bay, France. The Confederate government had already secretly bought the *Sphinx*, and it would become the CSS What?

### **DUES & DONATIONS**

The PSCWRT season goes from September to the following May. Dues should be paid in September. Dues are payable either at the meeting or by mail: \$20 per individual, \$25 for a couple. Also, donations are gratefully accepted. These will help secure speakers for our meetings. Please note that all donations are tax deductible as the PSCWRT is a 501(c)3 organization. Mail to: Jeff Rombauer, Treasurer, 22306 255<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE, Maple Valley, WA 98038-7626. Call 425-432-1346 or email: [jeffrombauer@foxinternet.com](mailto:jeffrombauer@foxinternet.com).

**We welcome your article or research submissions for the newsletter, but they may be edited. The deadline for the February 2015 Washington Volunteer is Monday, January 26, 2015. Please have it in Mark Terry's hands via email or snailmail by then. Thank you!**

### **2014-2015 OFFICERS**

#### **Elected:\***

President: Rick Solomon, [ricksolo@ricksolo.com](mailto:ricksolo@ricksolo.com)

Vice-President-Successor: Mike Movius, [webmaster@pscwr.org](mailto:webmaster@pscwr.org)

Past-President: David Palmer, [davidpalmer7@comcast.net](mailto:davidpalmer7@comcast.net)

Vice-President-Programming: Pat Brady, 206-246-1603, [patsbrady@comcast.net](mailto:patsbrady@comcast.net)

Vice-President-Editor: Mark Terry, 425-337-6246, [markimlor@comcast.net](mailto:markimlor@comcast.net)

Vice-President- Membership: **OPEN**

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*\*Except for Past President, an automatic position.*